

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 EB-07
LAB-04 SIL-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 /089 W
-----110145Z 019364 /70

R 101220Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1472
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL GOTEBORG

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1193

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, FI, SW, EAIR, EFIS, PLOS, ELAB
SUBJECT: SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER VISITS FINLAND

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: PRIMIN FALLDIN'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO
FINLAND WAS RECEIVED BY FINNS AS WELCOME EVIDENCE OF INCREASED SWEDISH

INTEREST IN NORDIC COOPERATION. FALLDIN ALSO GAVE CLEAR STATEMENT OF
SUPPORT FOR FINNISH NEUTRALITY POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. SWEDISH PRIMIN THORBJORN FALLDIN PAID OFFICIAL VISIT TO FINLAND
JUNE 6-7. HE HAD FULL PROGRAM INCLUDING MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT KEK-
KONEN
PRIMIN SORSA AND FONMIN VAYRANEN. ASIDE FROM EXCHANGE OF
INFORMATION ON RECENT KKKONEN VISIT TO MOSCOW AND SWEDISH FISHING
AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS, DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC IS-
SUES,
INCLUDING BALTIC FISHING ZONES AND NORDIC AIR TRAFFIC ROUTES, WITH
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PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PROBLEMS OF MIGRATION OF FINNISH WORKERS TO
SWEDEN. FALLDIN ALSO MET PRIVATELY WITH FINNISH CENTER PARTY LEADERS,

INCLUDING VAYRANEN AND PARTY CHAIRMAN VIROLAINEN.

3. LOSS OF SKILLED WORKERS TO SWEDEN IS OF MAJOR CONCERN HERE,
ALTHOUGH IT IS CLEAR TO BOTH SIDES THAT LITTLE CAN BE DONE TO

STEM SHORT-TERM FLOW WITHOUT ENCROACHING ON 1954 AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING FREE NORDIC LABOR MARKET. NONETHELESS, FINNS APPRECIATED HIGH LEVEL

ATTENTION TO PROBLEM. TWO SIDES AGREED TO ENCOURAGE USE OF STATE EMPLOYMENT OFFICES IN EFFORT TO REDUCE NUMBERS OF BOTH WORD-OF-MOUTH RECRUITS FROM FINLAND AND THOSE COMING TO SWEDEN WITH NO JOB PROSPECT WHATSOEVER. SORSA REPORTEDLY URGED MORE SWEDISH INVESTMENT IN FINLAND TO REVERSE LONG-TERM FLOW. (IRONICALLY, BANKRUPTCY ANNOUNCEMENTS OF TWO SWEDISH FIRMS HERE--ALGOTTS AND KRISON--ON JUNE 8 AND 9 MEANS LOSS OF JOBS FOR 800 FINNS.) FALLDIN FOR HIS PART DEVOTED FIRST HALF OF JUNE 6 DINNER SPEECH TO REVIEW OF ISSUE AND EXPRESSION OF UNDERSTANDING OF ITS SERIOUSNESS.

4. OF GREATER POLITICAL INTEREST WAS FACT THAT FALLDIN USED OTHER HALF OF SPEECH TO MAKE SOME SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS ON RESPECTIVE NEUTRAL POLICIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. AFTER OBSERVING THAT NORDIC BALANCE IS BASED ON EACH NORDIC COUNTRY'S DEVELOPING POLICY IN OWN INTEREST, HE SAID SWEDEN ALSO TAKES NEIGHBORS' INTERESTS INTO CONSIDERATION. "IN SWEDEN WE HAVE ALWAYS SEEN FINLAND'S POLICY OF NEUTRALITY...AS A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN MAINTAINING PEACE IN NORTHERN EUROPE. FINLAND'S POLICY IS OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFIANCE FOR SWEDEN'S SECURITY. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF FINLAND'S TRADITIONAL POLICY OF NEUTRALITY ALSO LIES IN SWEDEN'S INTERESTS. SIMILARLY WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SWEDEN'S POLICY OF NEUTRALITY REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY." FALLDIN CONCLUDED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN TWO POLICIES THAT HAVE SOMETIMES CAUSED DIFFERENCES ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, SWEDEN COMPLETELY SUPPORTS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ADMIRE FINLAND'S CSCE CONTRIBUTIONS.

5. SORSA IN HIS SPEECH ALSO ADDRESSED QUESTION OF NORDIC SECURITY, NOTING THAT RELATIONSHIP AMONG FIVE NORDICS HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE 1949. HE OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH "EACH NORDIC COUNTRY HAS ACTED ON THE BASIS OF ITS OWN INTERESTS, AT THE SAME TIME A GOOD PRACTICE HAS DEVELOPED WHICH HAS LED THE NORDIC COUNTRIES TO CONSIDER THE POSITIONS OF THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES AND RESPECT THEIR DECISIONS."

6. MEDIA GAVE VISIT MAJOR COVERAGE WITH EMPLASIS ON MIGRATION PROBLEM. COMMON THEME OF SEVERAL EDITORIALS WAS EXISTENCE OF CLOSE AND PROBLEM-FREE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, WITH ALMOST CONSTANT CONTACT AT VARIOUS GOVERNMENTAL LEVELS. EDITORIALS POINTED OUT THAT EVEN THOUGH FALLDIN HIMSELF HAD ALREADY BEEN HERE TWICE BEFORE IN SHORT TIME SINCE TAKING OFFICE, THIS WAS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT BY A SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER SINCE 1967. IN ASKING WHY OFFICIAL VISIT WAS NEEDED IN VIEW OF OTHER CONTACTS, MOST PAPERS REACHED CONCLUSION OF LEADING HELSINGIN SANOMAT THAT IT IS INDICATION OF FALLDIN GOVERNMENT'S EMPHASIS ON NORDIC COOPERATION

IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

7. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR NORDIC AFFAIRS, GOF WAS IMPRESSED WITH SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH SWEDES APPROACHED VISIT. OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT SWEDES HAD OBVIOUSLY PREPARED CAREFULLY, EVEN WORKING OUT LANGUAGE OF TOASTS IN ADVANCE, PERHAPS GIVING OCCASION MORE IMPORT THAN FALLDIN'S EARLIER OFFICIAL VISITS TO OTHER NORDIC CAPITALS. HE SAID THAT FALLDIN'S CAREFULLY CONSIDERED COMMENTS ON NEUTRALITY (PARA 4 ABOVE) WERE CLEAREST ENDORSEMENT OF FINNISH POLICY BY GOS THAT MFA COULD RECALL AND THAT GOF WAS APPRECIATIVE OF IT. HE INDICATED THAT SORSA'S REMARKS (PARA 5) WERE ALSO CAREFULLY CHOSEN TO PUT TO REST EARLIER CONTROVERSY OVER FINNISH CRITICISM OF GERMAN NATO FORCES IN NORWAY.

8. ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, NO CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED. MFA OFFICIAL SAID FINNS REALIZE NOTHING CAN BE DONE DIRECTLY TO STOP
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MIGRATION TO SWEDEN. QUESTIONS OF FISHING AND AIR TRAFFIC INVOLVED SOME DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. ACCORDING TO SWEDISH EMBASSY SOURCE FINNS ASKED FOR FIFTH FREEDOM STOP IN GOTEBOG FOR FINNAIR HELSINKI-NEW YORK ROUTE TO COMPENSATE FOR LIMITATIONS ON STOPS IN COPENHAGEN, BUT FALLDIN INSISTED THIS WAS NOT BILATERAL MATTER, GIVEN INTEREST OF SAS. SWEDISH EMBASSY SAID FINNS ALSO CRITICIZED SWEDES FOR PRESSURING RUSSIANS BILATERALLY RE EXTENDING SWEDISH FISHING ZONE, AS FINNS FAVOR MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO BALTIC ZONES. SWEDES REPORTEDLY REJECTED FINNISH POSITION IN INTERST OF EARLY ACTION TO PREVENT DEPLETION OF STOCKS BY SOVIET AND BLOC OVERFISHING. EN CONFIDENTIAL.
HOUSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2203308
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER VISITS FINLAND
TAGS: PDIP, EAIR, EFIS, PLOS, ELAB, OVIP, FI, SW, (FALLDIN, THORBJORN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/78fced7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009